Illegal diversion of land

319. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the earlier findings of his Ministry, the Government of Bihar had lodged a criminal complaint against a former Minister and three IAS officials for allegedly illegally diverting land of the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary for an irrigation project;

(b) whether in view of new facts which have come to light, his Ministry has asked the Bihar Government to keep in abeyance the action it had initiated; and

(c) if so, the new facts which came to the notice of his Ministry and the latest stage of this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) the Forest Department, Government of Bihar had earlier informed that the land utilized by the Water Resource Department (WRD) includes such forest land which was never transferred to WRD and also included some part of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary. The State Government of Bihar informed on 31.10.2006 that action has been initiated against the officials responsible for violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Indian Forest Act, 1927 and various Sections of IPC. A case is also stated to have been filed in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Patna on 26.10.2006 in this regard.

(b) and (c) Shri V. Jayashankar, Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Bihar in his representation dated 29.10.2006, addressed to Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India, has stated that the construction of the proposed dam is in conformity with the map submitted by the then Executive Engineer, Water Resource Department, Bihar, vide his letter dated 20.01.1975. He has stated that information given by the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the map referred to by him are factually incorrect and are not authentic. Based on the representation of Shri V. Jayashankar, Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Bihar, the State Government was requested on 30.10.2006, to keep in abeyance

the action against the officials responsible for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State Government has also been requested to submit para-wise comments in respect of various issues raised in the representation of Shri V. Jayashankar, on 01.11.2006.

Fast track clearance for forest submersion and destruction by irrigation projects

320. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Supreme Court Empowered Committee on Environment to give fast-track clearances for forest submersion and destruction by various Irrigation Projects;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Empowered Committee on Environment to agree for Fast-Track Forest clearance; and

(c) how many proposals the Supreme Court Empowered Committee has cleared for fast-track approvals alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest and environmental clearance on instalment basis

321. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that various State Governments are seeking forest and environmental clearances for dams on an instalment-basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that projects are being divided into separate entities, so as, to pose applications for destruction of forest on a smaller scale;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have agreed to such break-up of composite proposals for fast-track forest clearance; and

(d) the steps proposed to avoid giving permission in instalments for dams and major industries?